

JOHN H. SANBORN.

JUNE 6, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENRY, of Connecticut, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 508.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 508) granting an increase of pension to John H. Sanborn, have considered the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$8.50 to \$24 per month the pension of John H. Sanborn, of Franklin Falls, N. H.

The Senate report states the facts and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 508) granting an increase of pension to John H. Sanborn, have examined the same and report:

Soldier was commissioned assistant surgeon of the Twelfth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers September 10, 1862, and was discharged July 21, 1864, his resignation from service being accepted on certificate of examination of board of surgeons that he was "suffering from piles and a general broken constitution, the result of chronic diarrhea." In 1880 he applied for pension, alleging chronic diarrhea, and the claim was allowed March 20, 1883, at the rate of \$8.50 per month, to date from July 22, 1864, the day after he was discharged from the Army.

July 11, 1889, an application for increase was filed, which was rejected, and other applications for increase made, respectively, June 20, 1891, February 16, 1893, and October 15, 1896, have shared the same fate.

is interesting and instructive to turn to the medical examinations in this case. June 30, 1881, the board at Plymouth, N. H., rated the soldier at \$12 per month. On January 3, 1883, the Concord board gave a rating at \$8.50 per month. January 15, 1890, after an exhaustive examination, the Plymouth board increased the rating to \$18 per month. October 7, 1891, the Concord board increased its former rating of \$8.50 to \$24, and on October 18, 1896, the Plymouth board recommended \$24 per month. Notwithstanding these several ratings, the Pension Bureau has refused to change the original allowance of \$8.50 per month, made in 1883.

The writer of this report knows Dr. Sanborn intimately, and is aware of the fact that his disabilities have forced him to abandon his medical practice. He is a broken-down man, and his disabilities are directly traceable to diseases incurred in the Army, and for which he was discharged. It seems unaccountable that he did not long ago receive a substantial increase, in accordance with the recommendations of the medical boards before whom he was sent, but the superior wisdom of the medical officers of the Pension Bureau, who never saw the soldier, denied it to him.

Your committee are fully satisfied that the soldier has been dealt with very harshly and that this is a meritorious claim. It is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass after being amended by inserting after the word "late," in line 6, the words "assistant surgeon."

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass.

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